

WHEREAS, infant mortality refers to the death of a baby before it reaches his or her first birthday; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois ranks 26th among the 50 states in the rate of infant mortality; and,

WHEREAS, 2014 provisional data shows that the Illinois infant mortality rate is 6.6 deaths per 1,000 live births, which remains relatively unchanged since 2010; and,

WHEREAS, the current infant mortality rate is a significant and troubling public health issue, especially for African-American families, Native-American families, and Hispanic families; and,

WHEREAS, the infant mortality rate among African-American women is triple that of Caucasian women, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Public Health and other stakeholders in the Collaborative Improvement & Innovation Network to Reduce Infant Mortality (CoIIN) are committed to addressing infant mortality by focusing on preconception and interconception health, sudden infant death syndrome, social determinants of health, early elective delivery, and perinatal regionalization; and,

WHEREAS, a set of goals and objectives with 10-year targets designed to guide national health promotion and disease prevention, known as Healthy People 2020, includes an objective regarding a decrease in the rate of infant mortality;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 2016 as **INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois, in order to reduce health inequities, improve birth outcomes, and improve the health of all Illinois women, babies, and families so that no parent will have to endure the tragedy of infant death.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

BEAT OF STATE OF STAT	
10G. 28TH 1819	

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield.

this _______ two formal in the User of Our Lord, two thousand and _______, and of the State of Illinois, one hundred and ______.

Desse White

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE